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had since extended the observations so as to get proofs of the same principle from single bud cases. He exhibited specimens of some maple shoots of the present season's growth and showed that there was a gradual diminution of strength in the leaves from the early spring to the present time; *but just in proportion as the leaf lost in vigor the axillary buds gained in strength.* The upper buds were large and plump, the lower scarcely discernible. The inference was made clear, from these illustrations, that whatever may be the cause of the simultaneous appearance of leaves and axillary buds, they were not in harmony together.

He further suggested how very important it was that botanists should note well the most trivial phenomenon. These facts, which bid fair to revolutionize one of the most popular dogmas in vegetable physiology, had all originated from the single observation that the glands on the leaf stalks of the common wild senna weed, *Cassia marilandica*, were not always in one fixed position, and could not, therefore, be an elementary part of the regular leaf system. They were afterwards found to be buds which had been devoured, as it were, by the leaf, and actually absorbed into its structure.

Mr. Redfield noticed the finding of Aspidium aculeatum in the Catskill Mountains, two degrees farther south than it had heretofore been observed.

September 14th.

Dr. LeConte in the Chair.

Nine members present.

September 21st.

Dr. Ruschenberger, Vice-President, in the Chair.

Sixteen members present.

September 28th.

Dr. Bridges in the Chair.

Twenty members present.

The following gentlemen were elected Members:

Jas. Cummisky, M. D.; T. H. Struts; Nathaniel E. Macomber; Wm. H. Fynn.

Prof. Geo. H. Cook, of Princeton, N. J., was elected a Correspondent.

Oct. 5th.

Dr. Ruschenberger, Vice-President, in the Chair.

Eighteen members present.

The following papers were presented for publication:

"Meteors, their composition and the cause of their ignition and of their white trails." By Jacob Ennis.

"On the variations of the Genus Ægiothus." By Elliott Coues, A. M.

The publication of No. 2 of the Proceedings for 1869 was announced.

Oct. 12th.

The President DR. HAYES, in the Chair.

Twenty-eight members present.

The following paper was presented for publication: "On the Law of Development in the flowers of Ambrosia artemisiæfolia." By Thomas Meehan.

The death of Mr. Frederick Klett was announced.

Oct. 19th.

DR. BRIDGES in the Chair.

Fifteen members present.

Oct. 26th.

The President, DR. HAYES, in the Chair.

Twenty-six members present.

The monthly report of the Biological and Microscopical Section was presented.

On favorable report of the Committees, the following papers were ordered to be published:

On variation in the Genus ÆGIOTHUS.*

BY ELLIOTT COUES, A.M., PH.D.

Study of this genus will show a series of facts apparently of some general application, on the question of the mutual relations, if not actually of the origin, of the various forms, usually held to be species, that compose associations of corresponding grade. It is not to be supposed that this genus has labored under any peculiar or isolated conditions, or been subject to any special laws of development that have resulted in the state of things that is found to obtain. Whatever these conditions and laws may have been, they are presumably—in fact, almost certainly—equally operative upon more or less allied groups. Though it seemed to the writer, at one time, that there was something peculiar in the kind of variation to which Red-polls are subject, later investigations render it probable that such is not the case. Analysis, therefore, of the phenomena of this one group, carried into details, may be the means of deducing some generalizations not wanting in import.

It is not proposed to consider how the genus *Ægiothus* became what it is,—that is, by what means it secured individual existence as an entity distinct from all surrounds, differentiated by certain characters from the most nearly and most remotely allied types; that is a question of the origin of genera,† foreign to the present subject. We are to take the genus as it now is, and study characters of the grade next below generic, in the hope of tracing some of the laws that have been effective in sorting out, among the birds of the group, the precise features they are found to possess.

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* See these Proceedings, Nov. 1861, p. 373, et seq.; and Feb. 1862, p. 40.

† See Cope, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philad., Oct., 1868.